

1. I support each point in the petition.

2. As a longtime VE I can state that allowing retesting at the same test session leads candidates to chronically arrive unprepared. This adds unnecessary workload to the VE teams who are normally quite busy without the retesting. This added workload can degrade the overall quality of testing security.

3. Should the Commission decide to terminate all code testing, the amateur radio service will be left without the possibility of any new amateur being able to fully qualify as an expert. Radiotelegraphy is the basic mode of radio communication, still widely in use in amateur radio, and I agree with John Johnston who states that without a code test an Extra class cannot truly be considered as an expert amateur.

That code test should confirm minimal proficiency at a useful code speed instead of mere character recognition level skill.

Surely the amateur radio service hasn't been reduced to the level of awarding expert status to candidates who have no proven skills beyond selecting 70 percent of correct answers to written tests where all the answers are provided in advance.